



STATE OF MAINE

MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Department of Education
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on June 11, 2003, at the Burton M. Cross State Office Building, Augusta with the following members present: Chair Jean Gulliver, Vice Chair Philip Dionne, Joyce McPhetres, Wes Bonney, Ken Allen, Jack Norris, Jan Tockman, and Ellie Multer. *Note: that this is a nine-member board with one vacancy.*

Also present were: Susan Gendron, Commissioner; Patrick Phillips, Deputy Commissioner; Judy Malcolm, Team Leader, Support Systems Subteam; Scott Brown, AIA, School Construction; James Carignan, recently confirmed member of the State Board who had not yet been sworn in; and Rhonda Casey, Clerk.

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Wes Bonney, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and voted eight in favor to approve the March 12, April 9, 2003 minutes as written and to amend the first paragraph, line 3 of the May 14, 2003, as follows: "present: Chair Jean Gulliver, Joyce McPhetres, Wes Bonney, Ken Allen, Jack Norris, Ellie Multer, and Janet Tockman. Excused: Vice Chair Phil Dionne...."

CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST FROM THE HIGH TECH INSTITUTE INC.
TO OFFER ACADEMIC CREDIT PROGRAMS IN MAINE

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE TO REVIEW APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL
DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORIZATION AS SUBMITTED BY HEARTWOOD
COLLEGE OF ART TO AWARD THE BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS DEGREE

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Ken Allen, and voted eight in favor to approve the consent agenda.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERIM REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FORT KENT TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Background: During its July 12, 2000, meeting the Board unanimously granted full five-year approval (Summer 2000 – Summer 2005) of the University of Maine at Fort Kent's Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education program. When doing so, the Board also required UMFK program administration to submit an interim progress report to the State Board of Education addressing the various program improvement recommendations contained within the Team's report. The required Interim Status Report has been received from UMFK program administration and is hereby submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education accept the UMFK Interim Status Report.

MOVED by Jack Norris, seconded by Ken Allen, and voted eight in favor to accept the University of Maine at Fort Kent Interim Status report.

CONSIDERATION OF THE TEAM REPORT FOR THE SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY REQUEST TO OFFER ACADEMIC CREDIT PROGRAMS IN MAINE

Background: 20-A MRSA, Chapter 409 provides that the State Board of Education may approve an application from a postsecondary educational institution located outside the State of Maine to offer within the state courses or programs for academic credit. Officials from the Southern New Hampshire University, located in Manchester, New Hampshire, made application to offer certificate programs as well as offerings leading to completion of requirements for the degrees of Associate in Arts, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Business Administration, Master of Business Education, and Master of Science in Organizational Leadership. The certificate programs are in the areas of accounting, computer programming, and human resource management. Associate degree programs are in the areas of accounting, business administration, information technologies, and liberal arts. Baccalaureate degree programs are in the areas of accounting, business administration, technical management, English language and literature, humanities, psychology, and social science.

The Southern New Hampshire University is authorized to confer the above degrees by the State of New Hampshire and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Southern New Hampshire University (formerly New Hampshire College) began offering classes at the Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS) in 1968 and has been in continuous operation ever since. In order to meet the needs of additional Navy personnel, courses were also offered for several years at Naval Security Group Activity in Winter Harbor. In the past 35 years over 8,500 students have attended

classes at what is now called the Brunswick Center. As long as the institution conducted its operations on federal property it was exempt from Maine program authorization procedures. Heightened BNAS security measures have resulted in the Center being relocated off base in the former Brunswick High School. With this move the University is now required to seek State Board of Education authorization to continue to operate in the State of Maine.

The Board-authorized Review Team met with Southern New Hampshire University officials March 3, 2003, and considered the University's request. Following this meeting a report was prepared which includes Team findings resulting from the application of Board standards and a recommendation for State program approval status. The report has been prepared for State Board consideration and action during the June 11, 2003, meeting of the Board.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Southern New Hampshire University's request to offer academic credit programs in the State of Maine. The period of approval is from Spring 2003 through Spring 2007.

MOVED by Wes Bonney, seconded by Ellie Multer, and voted eight in favor to approve the Southern New Hampshire University's request to offer academic credit programs in the State of Maine. The period of approval is from Spring 2003 through Spring 2007.

DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROVAL FOR SAD #74 – NORTH ANSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ADDITION/RENOVATION PROJECT

Statement of Fact: The North Anson Elementary School construction project received Concept Approval at the December 18, 2002, Maine State Board of Education meeting. The project was approved in local referendum on January 28, 2003. This Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A. The construction project will take place on the site of the existing Mark Emery School. Three very old wood frame buildings will be removed and a fourth masonry classroom structure will be integrated into the construction project. The project will also consolidate grades 6, 7 and 8, which helps to alleviate crowding in four other elementary schools in the district. The consolidation will facilitate the development of a middle school program for these students.

SAD #74 has requested Design and Funding Approval for the North Anson Elementary School construction project qualifying under state statute and State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and it is therefore recommended that the State Board approve the following:

1. That SAD #74's proposed project is eligible for school construction aid under M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
2. That the proposed project and the authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and the school unit;

3. That the total estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
4. That SAD #74's proposed project is in compliance with M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to the provisions of special education facilities.

Concept Approval Date and Amount: December 18, 2002 \$ 7,965,807
Design & Funding Approval Date and Amount: June 11, 2003 \$ 7,965,807
Amount Included in Subsidized Debt Service: \$ 7,965,807
Local-only Project Funds: \$ -0-
Increase (Decrease) From Concept Amount: \$ -0-

Recommendation: The Department of Education and the School Construction Committee of the State Board of Education recommend that State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to SAD #74 for the North Anson Elementary School Major Capital Improvement Addition/Renovation Project.

This approval constitutes Design Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 15 of the State Board of Education Rules for School Construction Projects, which states:

"When it is determined by the Commissioner, following the opening of school construction bids, that there are surplus funds contained in a project budget, the State Board directs the Department of Education (DOE), with the advice of the Bureau of General Services, to initiate a process to lower the approved budget to the appropriate funding level, thus, providing additional funds for other projects awaiting concept approval."

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Ken Allen, and voted eight in favor to grant Design and Funding Approval to SAD #74 for the North Anson Elementary School Major Capital Improvement Addition/Renovation Project.

DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROVAL FOR WINDSOR SCHOOL DEPARTMENT – WINDSOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K-8), MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ADDITION/RENOVATION PROJECT.

Statement of Fact: The Windsor Elementary School construction project received Concept Approval at the September 11, 2002, Maine State Board of Education meeting. The project was approved in local referendum on October 22, 2002. This Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A. The construction project will reconfigure the elementary school, which was originally designed as an open concept facility. The project will enhance the facility, improve the safety of children by improving vehicle traffic on site, and enlarge the school to better meet the needs of the educational program. At present 50% of the students are housed in portable classrooms which makes academic programming very difficult. This project will eliminate the continued leasing of four 2-classroom portable units. These units currently cost some \$39,000 annually, of which \$22,000 is reimbursed by the State.

The Windsor School Department has requested Design and Funding Approval for the Windsor Elementary School construction project qualifying under state statute and State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and it is therefore recommended that the State Board approve the following:

1. That the Windsor School Department's proposed project is eligible for school construction aid under M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
2. That the proposed project and the authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and the school unit;
3. That the total estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
4. That the Windsor School Department's proposed project is in compliance with M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to the provisions of special education facilities.

Concept Approval Date and Amount: September 11, 2002 \$ 7,588,200
Design & Funding Approval Date and Amount: June 11, 2003 \$ 7,588,200
Amount Included in Subsidized Debt Service: \$ 7,339,700
Local Only Project Funds: \$ 248,500
Increase (Decrease) From Concept Amount: \$ -0-

Recommendation: The Department of Education and the School Construction Committee of the State Board of Education recommend that State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to the Windsor School Department for the Windsor Elementary School Major Capital Improvement Addition/Renovation Project.

This approval constitutes Design Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 15 of the State Board of Education Rules for School Construction Projects, which states:

"When it is determined by the Commissioner, following the opening of school construction bids, that there are surplus funds contained in a project budget, the State Board directs the Department of Education (DOE), with the advice of the Bureau of General Services, to initiate a process to lower the approved budget to the appropriate funding level, thus, providing additional funds for other projects awaiting concept approval."

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and voted eight in favor to grant Design and Funding Approval to the Windsor School Department for the Windsor Elementary School Major Capital Improvement Addition/Renovation Project.

RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPENDITURE OF THE FUNDS FROM THE GEORGE M. BRIGGS TRUST

Background: The Curriculum Integration Project (CIP) that was undertaken by the Maine Association of Vocational Education Administrators (MAVEA), in conjunction with the Department of Education, has completed a comprehensive review of career and technical education curricula. MAVEA has also completed the identification of the performance indicators of the Maine *Learning Results* that are taught and assessed as part of those curricula. A “warranted list” has been created that identifies the components of the *Learning Results* for which Career and Technical Education programs will be held accountable.

Assessments must now be developed for the “warranted list”. This will be accomplished through a series of assessment workshops similar to those conducted last summer for math, science, and English Language Arts. Career and Technical Education and academic teachers will be brought together to develop the assessments for math, science, and English Language Arts. The other content areas will be completed next year.

The MAVEA plans to use the Briggs money along with additional Perkins money to complete this phase of the project.

Recommendation: The State Board of Education award \$25,000 of the available funds currently in the George M. Briggs account to the Maine Association of Vocational Education Administrators for the development of assessments for the math, science, and English Language Arts components of the Maine *Learning Results* that are on the warranted list.

MOVED by Phil Dionne, seconded by Wes Bonney, and voted eight in favor to award \$25,000 of the available funds currently in the George M. Briggs account to the Maine Association of Vocational Education Administrators for the development of assessments for the math, science, and English Language Arts components of the Maine *Learning Results* that are on the warranted list.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Joyce McPhetres, Chair of the Nomination Committee announced that no further names have been submitted for consideration for chair and vice chair of the Board. Therefore, Jean Gulliver is being submitted as chair and Phil Dionne as vice chair for the July 1, 2003 June 30, 2004 fiscal year.

Joyce McPhetres called the vote. The vote is recorded as eight in favor to elect Jean Gulliver as chair and Phil Dionne as vice chair for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Gendron reported on the following:

- That the Department has been working to continue the implementation of the *Learning Results* and has engaged several stakeholders in an effort to develop a process involving a series of policy decisions in relationship to NCLB and the comprehensive local assessment systems. Deputy Commissioner Phillips has put together an overview of policy decisions that are being proposed.
- That Jackie Soychak is working very closely with staff in Washington to resolve the few remaining areas for Maine involving teaching quality and the NCLB Act. Of the few remaining issues needing attention one important issue remains, what to do with middle school teachers who teach multiple content areas in Special Education. The Department and the federal government are still negotiating Maine's certification of its teachers.
- No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) – Maine's plan has been approved, even though some of the pieces are still being negotiated with the U.S. Department of Education.
- That she attended a "Rural States Think Tank" sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officials (CCSSO) with other rural state representatives. This conference was established as a means for rural states to share the unique challenges rural states face with the NCLB Act. The states that participated in the conference generated a series of recommendations. At the end of the session conference participants met with staff from the U.S. Department of Education. One such staff person was very receptive to the states' recommendations and informed participants that Congress has formed a Rural State Coalition. This coalition is putting a tremendous amount of pressure on the U.S. Department of Education to make changes and bring forward recommendations. Maine's Congressional Delegation has also been alerted that Maine will have recommendations for changes in the NCLB law.
- That funding for the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) has been secured through Appropriations. The budget is now before the legislature. Several questions have been raised, such as where do we go from here? What is the future of this initiative? How does it really influence learning? Next steps, where to begin?
- That she met with John Bailey, federal Director of Educational Technology. The previous commissioner had conversations with Secretary Rod Paige and Mr. Bailey about the possibility of Maine receiving assessment money to perform an in-depth study of Maine's laptop program. Mr. Bailey has said that the protocol for applying for this grant will be sent out shortly. One thing is clear, the federal government wants Maine as part of that study. If Maine is awarded funding, then it could receive as much as \$1.7 million over the next three years to conduct this study.
- That she has met with Walter Harris and David Silvernail to discuss what the study might entail, and in turn both Walter and David have already contacted staff

in Washington, D.C. to gather information on the RFP. In the near future an additional grant of \$15 million will be available, which will also be linked to technology. The federal government wants to document gains in achievement in Mathematics and the language arts. Maine is also interested in participating in this study.

- The Rural States Caucus is working with Undersecretary Eugene Hickock in an effort to schedule a visit to Maine. Maine's laptop program is going to be used as a showcase for technology. John Bailey will be participating in a technology conference at the University of Maine – Orono in August. Maine will then host a revisit for Mr. Bailey and the Rural Caucus in September.
- Bond Package – Leadership is negotiating what the bond package will entail. The Department has put forth two recommendations for the bond package: (1) for the Revolving Renovation Fund; (2) the other to solve the Department's school bus issue.
- That the Governor's veto on fingerprinting was upheld.
- That the Governor has created a task force to look at combining Child Development Services and the Department of Human Services.
- In preparation for the Board's Retreat the Department's Leadership Team has begun a review of the strategic planning process that was developed in 1997.

REPORTS:

Local Assessment Systems - Deputy Commissioner Patrick Phillips provided the following update on the Local Assessment Systems:

- An internal list of pressing issues involving the Learning Results implementation policies has been drafted. These issues are interconnected and relate directly to stages of implementation of the Learning Results. There are nine core issues that need immediate attention. One such issue is the local assessment guide. The guide has been completed and is now being printed. The Department anticipates mailing these documents on Friday, June 13. A second issue is the local assessment systems and the federal NCLB Act. In order to do a good job in connecting these two reform pieces of legislation the development group had to think very carefully about how to do this. The federal NCLB Act makes some assumptions that are somewhat different. Another hurdle for the Department is how to develop resources at the local level.

Jack Norris asked the Commissioner where in the process is the issue with Indian education and teaching the native language to their students?

Ellie responded by saying that both she and Rosemary Muir have been in discussion with Superintendent Ron Jenkins of Indian Education and have informed the tribes of what states in the west, specifically Oregon and Washington, are doing. These states have adopted procedures that essentially leave the credentialing or certification of teachers of

Indian culture to the tribes. To date, the tribes have not indicated whether they would be interested in pursuing such an approach for Maine.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chair Gulliver reported on the following:

- That the State Board recently received a letter from the Education Committee officially assigning the State Board with convening a task force to review the oversight roles and responsibilities of state agencies involved in state-supported major capital school construction, including but not limited to the Bureau of General Services and the Department of Education, in a effort to improve the coordination and cost-effectiveness of the current system. This assignment is directly related to LD 149, An Act to Transfer Bureau of General Services School Construction Functions to the Maine Department of Education. Phil Dionne has been assigned to chair this Task Force. Likewise, the Board has also been assigned to undertake a study of charter schools. This assignment is different than other past assignments as it is essentially a research charge and not a task force.

The Board went back into Workshop Session to hear an update on Essential Programs and Services.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Jack Norris:

- That he attended the Healthy Learners meeting involving obesity. The meeting was well attended, some recommendations were put forth, and these recommendations will be presented to the Board in the near future.

Joyce McPhetres:

- That the SAU Study Group met three weeks ago and study group will be looking at more data during the July meeting in order to begin to develop its report. The general direction seems to be that comprehensive K-12 school administrative units are those that most fully provide the opportunity for children to achieve in the state. The data is not such that the committee is able to carefully compare the difference between performance and costs in unions versus districts versus municipalities. The committee is looking at putting together a preponderance of data on which to base its recommendations.
- David Silvernail provided the updated for Joyce as she was not able to attend the School Governance Task Force meeting.
 - The Governance Task Force on Efficiency and Equity issued a preliminary report that outlines the basic premises that the Task Force is working

under. Two clear messages are outlined in the report: (1) that Maine does have too many districts and there is a need to regionalize; (2) that there is a need to develop a plan on how to regionalize, when to regionalize, and where to regionalize?

Ellie Multer:

- That she attended a seminar with several members of the Department of Education on energy efficiency in schools.
- That Maine is moving ahead as a contestant for an Environmental Protection Agency award using Smart Growth as its focus. This is a very competitive award.

Phil Dionne:

- That he attended the National Association of Career Technology Education Information (NACTI) conference on May 13-16 in Palm Springs, California.
- That funding for Carl Perkins Act will continue for another year.
- That he was reelected to represent New England as a NACTI Board member for another year.
- That the Maine Jobs Council (MJC) apprenticeship current numbers have dropped. MJC has hired an executive director. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 5 next meeting at the Kennebec Valley Technical Center.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Wes Bonney, seconded by Joyce McPhetres and unanimously voted to adjourn the Wednesday, June 11, 2003, meeting at 4:00 p.m.